

# NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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*For Immediate Release*

**NOVEMBER 22, 2005**

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 18, 2005, **LAURA BERBER**, age 30 of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. BERBER was sentenced to 210 months imprisonment, was fined \$600, and was placed on 5 years supervised release.

BERBER had previously pleaded guilty to three counts in a federal superseding indictment, being conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine; and possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine.

This case is being prosecuted as part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). This investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Illinois State Police, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, the Carbondale Police Department, and other state and local law enforcement authorities.

In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has participated throughout the investigation.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys George Norwood and Amanda Robertson.